

Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Opportunities

Partner organization name: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health

Partner organization website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/public-health.aspx>

Partner organization brief description: The Division of Public Health brings together all the elements of public health within the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

This Division is responsible for preventive and community health programs and services. It is also responsible for the regulation and licensure of health-related professions and occupations, as well as the regulation and licensure of health care facilities and services.

Partner organization's point of contact name and email: Alison Keyser Metobo (Alison.KeyserMetobo@nebraska.gov), Kanishka (FNU.Kanishka@nebraska.gov), Akhila Godana (Akhila.Godana@nebraska.gov)

Description of partner organization's priority opportunities (APEX activities):

Electronic case reporting (eCR) is the automated exchange of disease case report information between healthcare facilities and public health agencies (PHAs). As part of case surveillance, healthcare providers are required to submit information about possible reportable conditions to state PHAs. eCR eliminates the burden of manual reporting. This improves overall public health by allowing for more efficient outbreak management and monitoring of disease trends. eICR's are the initial electronic case reports received by public health agency in the surveillance system.

Goal: Investigate, assess, and analyze eICR's flowing into NEDSS test for different conditions.

- Identify eICR document Id's that have flown into NEDSS test for 2 or multiple conditions.
- Investigate each eICR and document the findings in an excel sheet.
- Develop investigation excel sheets for identified conditions.
- Analyze this data using SAS/R and share results.

Timeframe of proposed activities: Spring Semester 2026, 17 Weeks (Jan 12- May 8) (100 Hours)

Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization: Supporting DHHS eCR team in their efforts of moving more conditions to NBS Prod by developing an eICR investigation data sheet, and data analysis report.

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

- Learn the importance of data collection and data management for designing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, and health services.
- Get experience in analyzing real time quantitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming, and software, as appropriate

Skill sets of students requested: SAS/R, Microsoft Office Skills, Epidemiology and Surveillance background.

Additional Information: In person/Hybrid schedule is preferred. Student will need to complete HIPAA and DHHS NEDSS trainings.

*Note—An affiliation agreement will be required prior to student engagement